

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM

The purpose of this information bulletin is to provide the Local Workforce Investment Areas information about the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program (Ticket Program). The "Ticket to Work" is an addition to Social Security Administration's (SSA) program for people receiving Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance benefits and meet certain eligibility criteria. This program proposes to provide more options for people with disabilities to go to work. The Ticket Program is voluntary.

The SSA mails a "Ticket" to eligible adults ages 18-64 years. They can use their Ticket within a range of organizations who have applied and been accepted to be an Employment Network (EN) to obtain services and supports they need to be employed. The Ticket Program has been phased in nationally over a three-year period. Eligible Californians began receiving their Tickets from the SSA beginning in November 2003, and will continue through September 2004. After receiving a Ticket from the SSA, an individual wanting to use their Ticket then chooses an EN.

An EN may be a single organization or a group of providers offering support and employment-related assistance, such as job readiness, placement, vocational rehabilitation, training, job coaches, transportation or other supports. Any agency, state/political subdivision, or private entity that can provide or arrange for the delivery of services is eligible to apply to be an EN.

An EN must choose between two payment methods. (1) An EN Outcome Payment Method: The EN is paid for up to 60 months for each month the SSA does not pay any cash benefit to the beneficiary due to employment earnings; or (2) An EN Outcome-Milestone Payment: A monthly milestone payment based on the beneficiary reaching certain earnings levels before cash benefits cease. The payment method selected by the EN applies to all beneficiaries they serve. If the beneficiary assigns their ticket to more than one EN at different times, each EN will share the payment after the Program Manager makes a determination of the allocation of payment (Title 20 Code of Federal Regulations Section 411.560).

As a required participant in the Ticket Program, the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) will serve individuals with disabilities who receive Tickets from the SSA and who want to go to work and need help to do so. The DOR, unlike an EN, may choose its payment method on a case-by-case basis, including the cost reimbursement payment system. The cost reimbursement payment system allows the DOR to be fully reimbursed by the SSA on items and/or services provided to an individual, e.g., a specially equipped vehicle, which may be cost prohibitive for an EN to provide. The DOR may choose the cost reimbursement payment system only if payment to an EN has not previously been made with respect to that ticket.

Administration of the Ticket Program is the responsibility of the Program Manager. The SSA contracted with MAXIMUS, Inc., a private contractor, whose responsibilities include recruiting and training ENs, outreach, and overall administration and oversight for the Ticket Program.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Bristow at (916) 653-0164 or Sbristow@edd.ca.gov.

/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER
Chief
Workforce Investment Division